

WHAT DOES JUSTICE MEAN TO YOU?

LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MISSOURI – REDEFINING JUSTICE

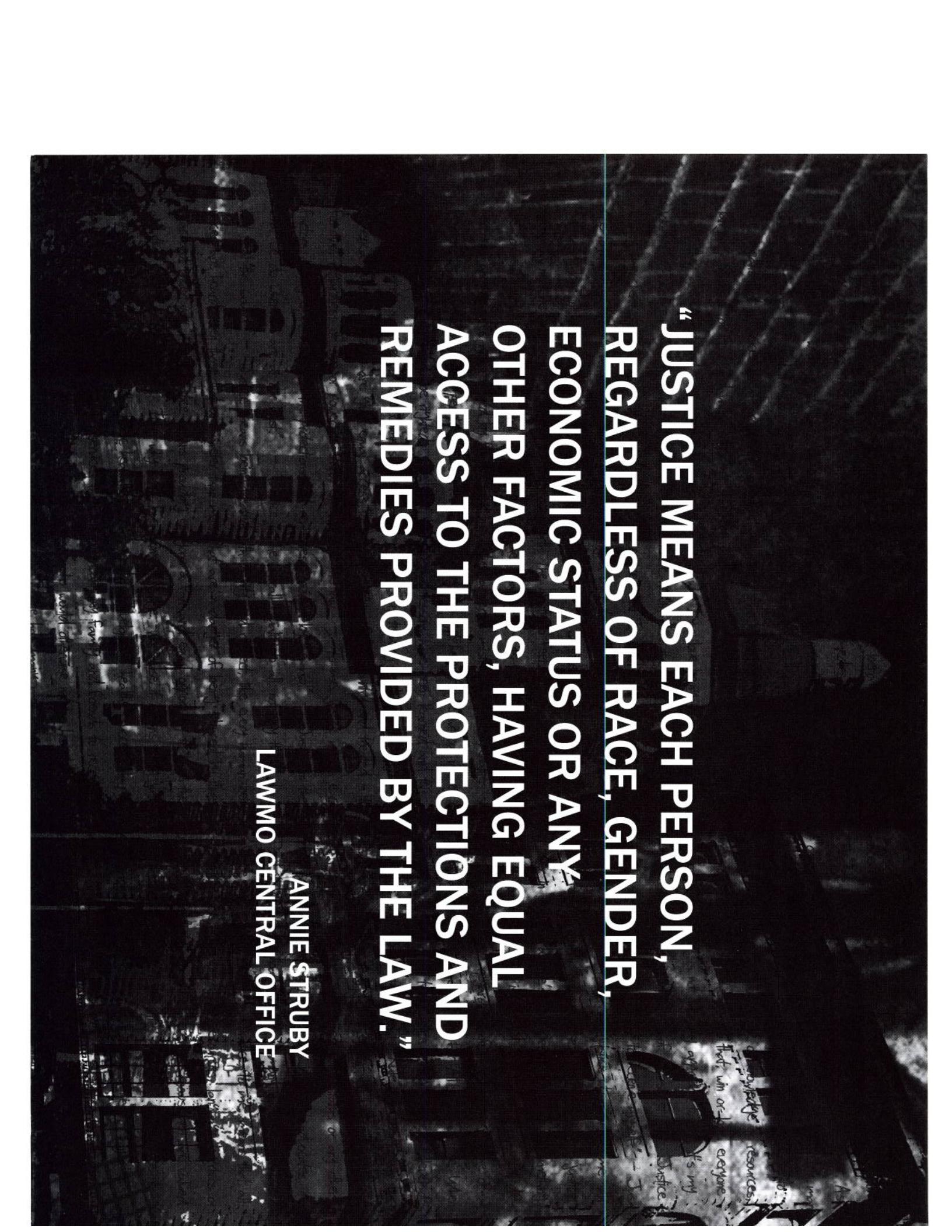
LEGAL AID OF
WESTERN MISSOURI
2007 ANNUAL REPORT

**"JUSTICE IS THE SINEW THAT HOLDS
A CIVILIZED SOCIETY TOGETHER. AS
LEGAL ADVOCATES, IT IS WHAT WE
DO WHEN WE ARE AT OUR BEST."**

JUDGE RICHARD B. TEITELMAN
SUPREME COURT OF MISSOURI

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**"JUSTICE MEANS EACH PERSON,
REGARDLESS OF RACE, GENDER,
ECONOMIC STATUS OR ANY
OTHER FACTORS, HAVING EQUAL
ACCESS TO THE PROTECTIONS AND
REMEDIES PROVIDED BY THE LAW."**

ANNIE STRUBY
LAWMO CENTRAL OFFICE

INTRODUCTION

LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MISSOURI IS
COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF
THOSE IN NEED THROUGH QUALITY LEGAL
ASSISTANCE.

LAWMO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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	<i>Sam Liepard</i>	

Legal Aid of Western Missouri (LAWMO) has been improving the lives of those in need through quality legal assistance for over 43 years. Providing free legal assistance to those who are living at or below the poverty level in our 40-county service area increases self-sufficiency and improves the quality of life of children, the elderly, victims of domestic violence, disabled persons, those infected with HIV/AIDS and many others.

LAWMO gives priority to cases involving housing, public benefits, consumer issues, education, employment, family law, domestic violence and immigration, and in Kansas City, municipal court defense. LAWMO also connects its clients to important resources that can help them address various non-legal needs. Following is a more detailed description of the services LAWMO staff provide.

A MESSAGE FROM DICK HALLIBURTON – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 1987-2008



Dick Halliburton

This is the forty-third year LAWMO has provided quality legal assistance to the low-income families of western Missouri and the thirty-eighth year I have been a part of this outstanding organization. For the past twenty years I have had the privilege of serving as LAWMO's Executive Director and writing this message each year. With my recent retirement this will be my final contribution to this annual report but not my last to LAWMO.

Our greatest challenge continues to be the persistence of grinding poverty. It is a condition that brings with it a host of ills: inadequate nutrition and health care, physical and mental disabilities, substandard or nonexistent housing, domestic violence and related child custody disagreements, and consumer abuses to name the most prevalent we see. And attached to each of these is a legal problem that can most fairly be resolved only with the assistance of a legal professional. As long as poverty resists our efforts to end it, so will the legal problems of those caught in its grasp. But these problems need not and must not be unresolvable for lack of legal assistance. This has been the mission

and work of LAWMO since its creation in 1964.

The dream of all of us in this work is one day to see the elimination of poverty in this country. My hope is that at least in western Missouri LAWMO's advocacy will play an expanding role in moving us toward that day by meeting the increasing legal needs of all our low-income population.

To be leaving the organization fiscally sound and in the hands of such a committed staff of both experienced experts and the well qualified next LAWMO generation is gratifying. Add to that the countless contributions of our thousands of supporters – our board and annual campaign committee members, grantors and generous donors, attorney and other volunteers, and elected officials at all levels – and I know we can realize our vision of equal opportunity and equal Justice for All.

A MESSAGE FROM GREGG LOMBARDI – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*

Justice is getting what you deserve. And for the last 38 years, Dick Halliburton has made sure that LAWMO's clients have gotten the justice they deserve.

His skill in assembling and maintaining an excellent staff, securing strong, long-term funding sources and navigating complex regulatory requirements with which we must comply has empowered LAWMO's staff to do justice.

In sum, Dick, in his 38-year career with LAWMO and his 20 years as our Executive Director, has brought justice to tens of thousands of low-income Missourians.

As LAWMO's new Executive Director, I pledge to do my best to continue Dick's legacy of doing justice. I look forward to working with our talented staff and excellent community partners to try to improve the lives of even more clients in need.

Victims of domestic violence and their children deserve to be protected from their attackers, and under Dick's leadership, our staff has done just that for thousands of clients. People who are permanently and totally disabled deserve access to medical care and at least a subsistence-level income so they can survive. Our staff has gotten those benefits for countless clients. Low-income people deserve safe, clean and affordable housing and, thanks to our staff's work, public housing, particularly in the Kansas City area, has dramatically improved in the last 20 years.

I hope that you will join and support us in this work. It is a tremendous cause. It is also tremendously gratifying work. As you will see from the stories you will read in the pages that follow, we did a lot of justice in 2007, but there is much more to be done. With your continuing support, we can rise to the challenge. I look forward to working with you.



Gregg Lombardi

*In February 2008, Dick Halliburton retired after 20 years as executive director and 38 years at LAWMO. Gregg Lombardi, former deputy executive director, was hired as executive director in July 2008.

JAMES



James* is a 68-year-old man who had done construction work throughout his career and was particularly talented at tile work. He owned his home, near Swope Park in Kansas City, free and clear. Unfortunately, he contracted severe arthritis, which stopped him from working. Due to loss of income from his disability, James had been unable to pay his real estate taxes for his home and the county had scheduled a tax sale of his home. James called LAWMO 14 days before the day of the tax sale.

A LAWMO attorney negotiated an installment contract with the county, which allowed James to make small monthly payments to catch up on his real estate taxes. It also allowed the tax sale to be postponed. A second LAWMO attorney then counseled James about the benefits and consequences of a reverse mortgage, which would allow him to use part of the equity in his home to pay off his tax debt, as well as to pay other expenses. James decided to get a reverse mortgage, which allowed him to pay off all of his taxes, get his roof repaired and have painting work done on the outside of his house.

THE URBAN CORE ESTATE PLANNING PROJECT
HELPS PRESERVE NEIGHBORHOODS BY PREPARING
BENEFICIARY DEEDS FOR LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS
SO THEIR HOMES PASS TO THE INTENDED
BENEFICIARIES WHEN THEY DIE.

LAWMO also advised James that, as a low-income senior citizen, he was entitled to a refund of Missouri property taxes that he had paid for the last three years. James's LAWMO attorney also helped him prepare the paperwork for his tax credit application. This allowed James a total refund of \$2,250. A Volunteer Attorney Project attorney prepared a beneficiary deed for James, which will allow title to his house to pass to his intended beneficiary upon his death.

Thus, with the help of LAWMO, James was able to save his house, have needed repairs done, obtain the tax credits to which he was entitled and make sure that the deed to his house would pass as he wishes when he dies.

* NOT CLIENT'S REAL NAME OR PHOTO

KAREN

Karen is a high school senior and a very serious student. Last year, she frequently missed school, lost weight and made multiple emergency room visits. When Migrant Farmworker Project (MFP) learned of Karen's problems, staff obtained a referral for her to be seen at Children's Mercy Hospital. Her kidney was so enlarged by that time that doctors considered removing it. MFP staff accompanied Karen to a series of ultrasounds, an MRI, a CAT scan and other tests, which ultimately determined there was an obstruction that would require surgery and insertion of a stint. The surgery might save her kidney. MFP kept careful track of Karen's pre-surgery and recovery instructions and medications. Several months after her operation, Karen is doing quite well. She will require additional follow-up ultrasounds every six weeks for several months. MFP's Medicaid case manager arranged for continuation of her Medicaid coverage, set up medical appointments and will continue to monitor her progress. Karen went back to school and hopes to graduate and go to college.*



*Karen graduated from high school in May 2008 and is enrolled in college.

LAWMO'S MIGRANT FARMWORKER PROJECT PROVIDES SERVICES TO A POPULATION THAT IS OFTEN INVISIBLE AND FREQUENTLY FALLS BETWEEN THE CRACKS OF CONVENTIONAL ASSISTANCE.

CAROL



Carol* had been stalked and harassed for several weeks by Eddie, an ex-boyfriend. One evening while Carol was picking up her mail from her road-side mailbox after returning home late from work, Eddie jumped out from some nearby bushes and hit her in the face with his fist. Carol kicked at him and he ran off. In an effort to stop the abuse, Carol filed for an adult order of protection.

LAWMO represented Carol at her hearing. Eddie produced three alibi witnesses who testified that he was 40 miles away playing cards at the time of the alleged assault. The LAWMO attorney had invoked the rule on witnesses, requiring that the witnesses wait outside the courtroom while the other witnesses were testifying. As a result, the witnesses' testimony was contradictory. Additionally, the LAWMO attorney discovered a previously filed adult protection order case in which one of the alibi witnesses (Eddie's current girlfriend) made allegations of extreme physical abuse against her by Eddie. The LAWMO attorney used the alibi witness's sworn petition to impeach her with regard to her trial testimony about Eddie's "gentle nature." The court took the matter under advisement and entered a full order of protection in favor of Carol.

*NOT CLIENT'S REAL NAME OR PHOTO

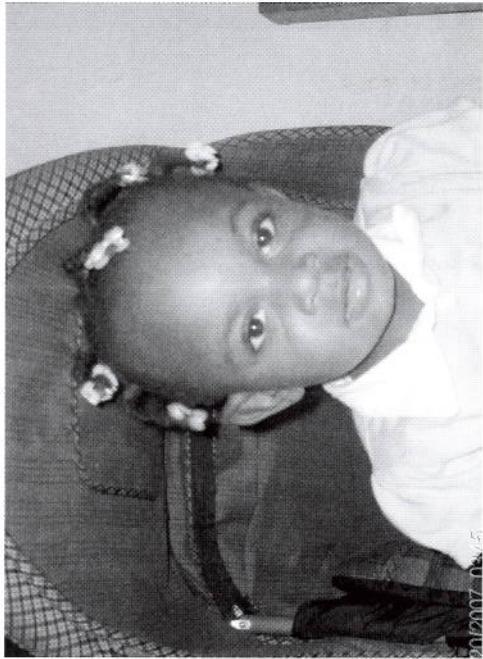
A NATIONAL STUDY CITES LEGAL AID AS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN REDUCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ACCESS TO LEGAL SERVICES AS ONE OF THE PRIMARY FACTORS THAT CAUSES A DECREASE IN THE REPORTED INCIDENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

AUDRA & DIERA

Audra contacted Legal Aid of Western Missouri when her daughter Diera's MC+ health plan refused to cover the cost of testing to determine if a helmet would be beneficial to treat Diera's plagiocephaly, caused by severe torticollis. Torticollis, a condition in which defects in the neck muscles cause the head to tilt one way while the chin points in the opposite direction, can cause plagiocephaly, a flattening of the head. An initial course of treatment for these conditions often involves physical therapy, which Diera's doctor at St. Luke's Craniofacial Program prescribed and her parents completed with no success. Because of the severity of Diera's plagiocephaly, her doctor then recommended that Diera be tested to determine if treatment in the form of a custom-molded helmet would be appropriate. Diera's health plan denied coverage for this testing.

LAWMO staff represented the client at a health plan review panel to argue for coverage of the testing, providing legal authority and medical documentation that proved that coverage should be provided and that failure to use helmet treatment could result in much more costly surgeries down the road.

Helmets lose their effectiveness after one year of age when the rate of skull growth slows down drastically. Because of the time-sensitive nature of the treatment, the Craniofacial Program used foundation funding to pay for the testing, pending the outcome of our appeal. The results of that testing indicated that Diera was a proper candidate for helmet treatment, but a request for coverage for the helmet was also initially denied. Based on our appeal, the health plan overturned its decision to deny payment for the testing. LAWMO assisted the client in providing additional requested information regarding the cranial helmet, and based on that information, the health plan also overturned its denial of coverage for the actual helmet.



ADVOCATES FOR FAMILY HEALTH (FORMERLY THE
MC+ ADVOCACY PROJECT) HELPS CHILDREN ACCESS
THE MEDICALLY-NECESSARY TREATMENT THEY ARE
ENTITLED TO UNDER THE FEDERAL MEDICAID ACT.

**"JUSTICE MEANS THAT ALL VOICES
ARE HEARD...EVEN THOSE THAT ARE
QUIETER THAN MOST, THAT ARE
IN DANGER OF BEING SILENCED
BY ILLNESS OR DISABILITY, LACK
OF KNOWLEDGE OR RESOURCES,
LANGUAGE BARRIERS OR FEAR AND
UNCERTAINTY."**

JESSIE JOHNSON
LAWMO CENTRAL OFFICE

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

FAMILY LAW/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The greatest number of requests for our legal services are for representation in cases involving the preservation, support and safety of families and individual family members. LAWMO gives priority to matters involving domestic violence where legal action is required to protect the health, safety and welfare of victims and their family members, especially children. Staff represent clients to obtain Full Orders of Protection, temporary child support and maintenance, and custody/visitation. To the extent possible, representation will expand to securing a final decree of dissolution of marriage.

Three attorney positions were partially funded in 2007 by STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grants through the Missouri Department of Public Safety. Supported by these grants, attorneys in the Joplin, St. Joseph and Warrensburg offices assist clients in obtaining Full Orders of Protection. LAWMO receives a grant from the State Services to Victims Fund through the Missouri Department of Public Safety to support a full-time attorney position in the Central office to help victims of domestic violence obtain Full Orders of Protection. This funding has directly increased our capacity to serve victims in need of immediate protection from their abusers and, indirectly, those facing difficult and prolonged custody disputes.

LAWMO received a sixth year of funding from a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant through the Missouri Department of Public Safety. The grant supports a holistic approach to intake in all of our offices to better meet the needs of our domestic violence clients by ensuring that they receive all available legal and other assistance. LAWMO staff

work closely with our court personnel, shelter advocates and other victim service providers to distribute information and to facilitate referrals for services other than legal assistance.

Additional funding for family violence cases provided by Heart of America United Way, United Way of Southwest Missouri and United Way of Greater St. Joseph enables LAWMO attorneys and paralegals to participate in community outreach programs at domestic violence shelters to bring additional legal assistance to victims of domestic violence. Attorneys assist clients with Full Orders of Protection, marriage dissolution, child custody determinations and other family law matters.

HOUSING LAW

Preventing homelessness and preserving and expanding the availability of affordable housing are key goals of LAWMO's housing programs. LAWMO represents clients in cases that have the greatest immediate impact on their ability to secure and maintain safe and affordable housing. Illegal evictions, landlord/tenant disputes, housing discrimination, uninhabitable housing conditions, utility shut-off and foreclosures are some of the legal challenges facing our clients. LAWMO also represents tenants' associations and neighborhood and community groups in their efforts to preserve and construct public and other low-income housing to eliminate blight and preserve neighborhoods.

A grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development funds LAWMO's Housing Counseling Program.

"Justice has many meanings, but for the women suffering the injustice of abuse, justice means a new beginning.

The realization of one's own worth. The ability to feel safe and the strength to start over in spite of all life's obstacles."

*Michele Bailey
LAWMO Paralegal*

The project assists low-income clients and underserved groups with a wide range of public and private housing issues, from improper evictions to uninhabitable housing conditions and raising the public's awareness of housing availability. Additional services offered include screening of all clients to determine eligibility for public and subsidized housing and further counseling to eligible clients on housing availability.

HOUSING AUTHORITY IN RECEIVERSHIP

The transformation of public housing in Kansas City began in 1989, when a LAWMO attorney filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court on behalf of tenants against the Housing Authority of Kansas City, Missouri (HAKC). The suit alleged that HAKC's failure to maintain and repair the Theron B. Watkins housing development constituted de facto demolition of the development, allowing the development to deteriorate and become obsolete. HAKC's actions violated laws that require housing authorities to obtain approval from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) before demolishing or disposing of a public housing project.

As a result of the lawsuit, in 1991 HAKC and HUD entered into a Consent Decree that provided for the complete renovation of the Theron B. Watkins development and the desegregation of public housing in Kansas City, Missouri. However, in May of 1992 HAKC violated the Decree. At the same time, vacancy rates and deterioration of all the HAKC properties continued to increase. HAKC's violations of the Decree continued into 1993.

As a result of LAWMO's effort to enforce the Court's Decree, the Court ordered that the HAKC be placed in receivership because it had not complied with the Consent Decree and because the Court found that HAKC was incapable of managing its properties. The Court also ordered the renovation of all HAKC's properties and the preservation of its resources resulting in one-for-one replacement of units sold or demolished.

A tenant organization, the Public Housing Resident Council (PHRC), was formed and has assisted the LAWMO attorney in monitoring all policies, procedures, and operations and the construction and development of HAKC's properties. When the Court placed the HAKC into receivership, it had a housing occupancy rate of 43% and the conditions of many of its apartments were deplorable. The HAKC now has a 97% occupancy rate and its apartments provide high-quality, safe and affordable housing for hundreds of low-income people.

Under receivership, HAKC has become a model public housing authority cited by HUD as a housing authority to emulate.

PUBLIC BENEFITS/ INCOME MAINTENANCE

One of LAWMO's primary interests is to keep low-income people connected to services that allow them to live healthy, safe lives. LAWMO represents disabled clients of all ages seeking public benefits that allow them to obtain medical care, food and a minimal level of income. Families with children are also represented to help them gain access to those same basic benefits as well.

as to supportive services (such as daycare, job training and educational services) that enable parents to secure employment at a living wage. LAWMO staff represent clients in administrative hearings and in court to ensure they receive the public benefits they are entitled to under the law.

These types of public assistance include:

- Aid to the Blind
- Food Stamps
- Medicare
- MO HealthNet for Families (formerly Medicaid)
- MO HealthNet for Pregnant Women
- MO HealthNet for Kids
- MO HealthNet for the Aged, Blind and Disabled
- Nursing Home Care
- Social Security
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance
- Veterans' Benefits

CONSUMER LAW

A Central office staff attorney handles exclusively cases that have a direct bearing on a person's ability to maintain or obtain housing. Staff attorneys in our outer offices handle a limited number of these cases as part of their general caseloads. Consumer cases often reflect patterns of exploitation of people living in poverty or on fixed incomes. These include cases of threatened foreclosures by creditors or taxing entities, deceptive or fraudulent loans or home repair contracts and other illegal consumer credit or collection tactics.

Often home foreclosure cases can be resolved with legal advice, budget counseling or negotiating affordable terms of repayment with the lender. In some cases, declaring bankruptcy to stop a foreclosure sale and compel the lender to accept reasonable repayment terms, or to relieve clients of overly burdensome debt can be an option. In other cases it may be necessary to file, or to defend the client in a lawsuit to avoid the loss of the client's home.

LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC

In 2007, LAWMO was awarded a grant from the Internal Revenue Service to implement a Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) to provide tax education and outreach on the rights and responsibilities of U.S. taxpayers to individuals who speak English as a second language (ESL) or who have limited English proficiency.

The clinic assists ESL taxpayers within LAWMO's 40-county service area. Examples of tax issues covered by the LITC are: who must file federal taxes; who should file; where, when and how to file federal taxes; Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) and Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC). Presentations

"My mother taught me justice when she let me split the candy bar in half, and let my sister decide which half I got."

Donald C. Wenger
LAWMO Board of Directors

EMPLOYMENT LAW

LAWMO staff provide advice, community education and representation on matters relating to the preservation and development of jobs that pay a living wage. We focus on removing legal barriers to employment, improving our clients' access to jobs paying above the poverty level and increasing clients' control over their economic future. The issues might include wrongful denial or termination of employment due to illegal discrimination or wrongful denial of unemployment benefits.

PRESERVING AFFORDABLE HOUSING — IN THE TRENCHES

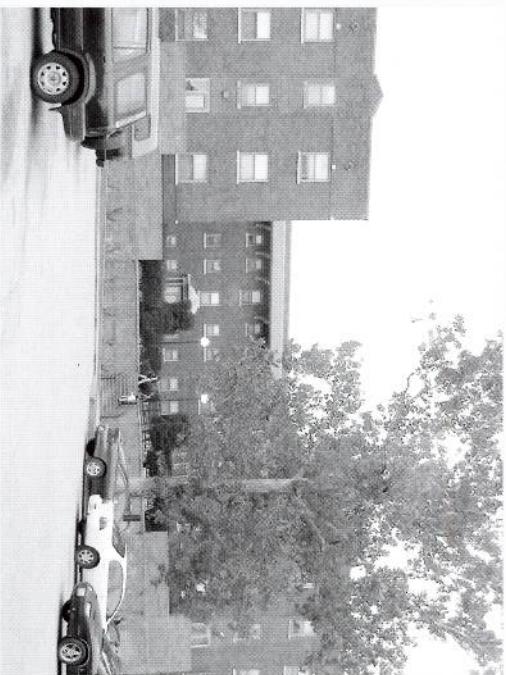
Long-time LAWMO client Westside Housing Organization has been improving housing opportunities for low-income families in the west side of Kansas City for 30 years. Recently, however, it faced a challenge that seemed insurmountable.

About twenty years ago Westside Housing, a nonprofit community organization, bought a derelict, nearly vacant, 48-unit apartment building. With LAWMO's help, a bank loan, a low interest loan from the city, a charitable loan, and tax-credit-supported equity investment, Westside Housing rehabilitated the building and rented it to low-income families. Twenty years later, in 2007, the building was again in need of repair, the loans were due and the city lender was threatening foreclosure. In addition, the tax abatement for the property was expiring and the county's reassessment threatened to quintuple the taxes. Keeping the building affordable to low-income families was in jeopardy.

Michael Duffy, who is the Director of LAWMO's Community

Economic Development Unit and who has 30 years of experience in affordable housing development, first appealed the property tax ruling. He persuaded the county to reduce the taxes by nearly 80%. He then negotiated with the city's lending agency—itself hobbled under a Federal Court receivership—to restructure the loan. Extended negotiations led to Court approval of a plan to assign the loan to the city so that it would not have to be overseen by the receiver, (the only assignment in the three year history of the receivership) which then led to City Council approval of a loan restructuring plan.

With these pieces in place, LAWMO staff helped Westside Housing close on a complex refinancing, with new federal tax credits, investment equity and tax exempt bond debt, resulting in \$2 million of renovations and a stable plan to keep the apartments affordable for another generation of low-income families.



Nottingham Apartments

and clinics are conducted at various community sites in order to make assistance more available to those with no means of transportation. Presentations are available in English, Spanish and other languages as requested. Taxpayers in need of legal representation are referred to a pro bono panel of attorneys carefully selected from LAWMO's Volunteer Attorney Project (VAP). The LITC does not do tax preparation, but refers people needing free tax preparation assistance to Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites and the Taxpayer Assistance Centers at the local IRS offices. Public service agencies are encouraged to participate by hosting clinics. Written educational materials in Spanish and English are available.

EDUCATION

LAWMO represents individuals denied school services due to discrimination, a wrongful suspension or expulsion or an erroneous residency determination and advances for students with a disability who are denied a free and appropriate public education. With the help of LAWMO staff, these students are given the opportunity to obtain their education at the learning institutions they are entitled to attend.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY POLICY

LAWMO's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) policy assures equal access to legal assistance to non-English speaking persons in LAWMO's 40-county service area. For low-income clients who speak very little English or do not speak English at all, accessing legal assistance is a difficult task. LAWMO eliminates language barriers for these clients through in-person and over-the-phone interpreter services and use of professional interpreter staff fluent in 26 languages through Jewish Vocational Service (JVS). In addition, LAWMO uses Language Line, a 24-hour over-the-

phone interpreter service that provides interpretation in more than 150 languages. LAWMO also relies upon existing staff proficient in other languages and trained at JVS in cultural competency and interpreter ethics and etiquette. Clients also have access to a newly developed LAWMO informational brochure written in Spanish and four other languages. The brochure is available at each LAWMO office and on LAWMO's website www.lawmo.org.

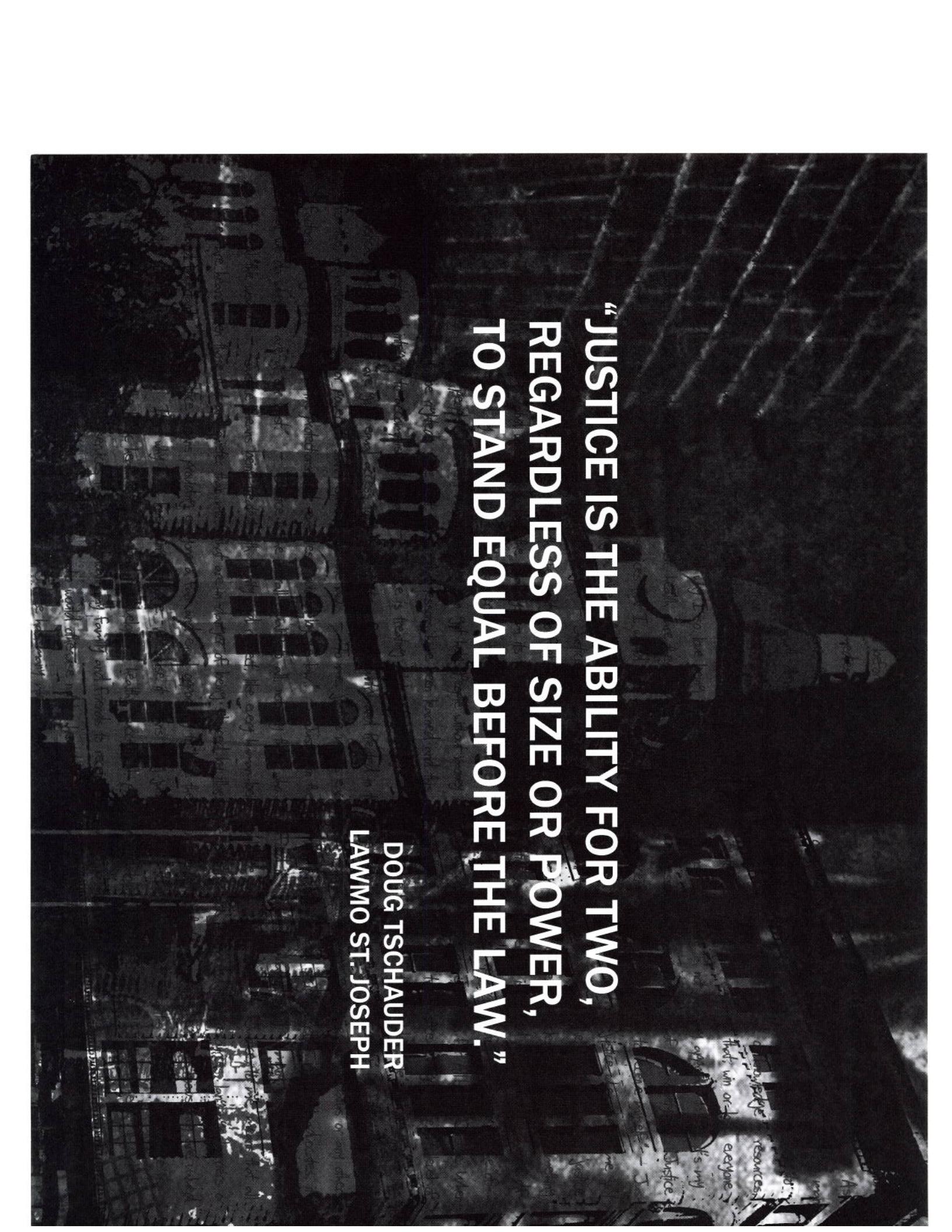


LAWMO Board of Trustee members, Lisa Gentleman and Leanne DeShong, at the Board of Trustees Annual Meeting.

"Justice means providing everyone a fair and equal opportunity to have their voices heard, so that, win or lose, everyone knows they are valued and their rights are respected.

It is why I so love being a judge - because it means doing justice is not just my approach to life, it's my job.

Chief Justice Laura Denair Shull,
Supreme Court of Missouri



**"JUSTICE IS THE ABILITY FOR TWO,
REGARDLESS OF SIZE OR POWER,
TO STAND EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW."**

DOUG TSCHAUDER
LAWMO ST.JOSEPH

LAWMO OFFICES

All LAWMO offices provide legal representation in the aforementioned areas. In addition, each office operates special projects.

JOPLIN

With a staff of three attorneys, three paralegals, one secretary and the help of volunteers and two private contract attorneys, the Joplin office provides service to six counties along Missouri's southwest border. As does each LAWMO office outside Kansas City, the Joplin staff provides service to both urban and rural areas, which sometimes have different needs.

The majority of their cases involve family law, most dealing with domestic abuse and/or marriage dissolution. The office also handles a number of public benefits, housing and consumer cases. Funding through the Missouri Department of Public Safety through the STOP Violence Against Women Act supports an attorney to handle Full Orders of Protection in cases involving physical abuse. A Victims of Crime Act grant through the Missouri Department of Public Safety provides funding that allows expansion of intake to better meet the needs of victims of abuse for referral to supportive services. Other critically needed legal assistance for victims of abuse is funded by the United Way of Southwest Missouri. A grant from the Region X Area Agency on Aging helps meet the needs of the area's elderly population.

For the past eight years, Pro Se (self-help) classes have been taught by former LAWMO Board of Trustees member, Tina Longnecker, who is active in the Volunteer Attorney Project. With assistance from a

LAWMO paralegal, Ms. Longnecker teaches clients how to represent themselves in marriage dissolutions where there is no abuse involved.

Many clients present problems beyond the immediate legal issues that brought them to a LAWMO office. To address these issues, the Joplin staff works in cooperation with other community service groups such as the United Way of Southwest Missouri funded agencies, the Community Housing Resource Board, Lafayette House and Moss House Shelters, and the Economic Security Corp. of Southwest Missouri.

The Helen S. Boylan Foundation and the Carthage Community Clinic have provided LAWMO with resources to better serve low-income clients in Carthage, Missouri. Since December 2000, a grant from the Helen S. Boylan Foundation and Carthage United Way has made it possible for LAWMO-Joplin to staff a legal clinic in Carthage to provide outreach and intake services for low-income persons.

Located in the Carthage Community Clinic, the legal clinic is staffed by a LAWMO paralegal every Tuesday evening for three hours.

WARRENSBURG

A staff of three attorneys, two full-time paralegals and one part-time paralegal and one full-time secretary provide an array of services to clients in 13 rural counties in the west-central section of the state. From working with volunteer attorneys throughout the area, to participating in the United Way fundraising activities and visiting clients at area shelters, the staff work to maintain a strong presence in the community. Many of the cases in 2007 were domestic

"Justice is when everyone is treated equally despite inherent differences and disputes are resolved by fair negotiation. When a person mistreats another, penalties should be equitably enforced regardless of the resources of the offender."

Charity Lindgren
LAWMO Central Office

relations cases for victims of abuse involving Orders of Protection, marriage dissolution, paternity and custody determination, and visitation and support orders. Funding from the Missouri Department of Public Safety through the STOP Violence Against Women Act provides for an attorney to obtain Full Orders of Protection for victims of physical abuse. In 2007, the Missouri Department of Public Safety through the Victims of Crime Act grants programs provided funding to support expansion of intake services to better meet the needs of victims of abuse for referral to supportive services.

Warrensburg staff also handle public benefits, landlord/tenant, consumer, employment security and education cases. Grants through the Johnson County United Way and the District III Area Agency on Aging provided supplemental funding for this office. Working closely with other service providers, such as Johnson County United Way, District III Area Agency on Aging, West Central Coalition for Legal Advocacy, Pettis County Domestic Violence Task Force and the Johnson County Domestic Violence Task Force, LAWMO staff are able to offer a holistic approach to the resolution of clients' problems.

In 2007, Pro Se (self-help) marriage dissolution classes were taught by a LAWMO attorney and paralegal. Through this unique service, an increased number of clients are assisted by the Warrensburg staff and the Volunteer Attorney Project.

ST. JOSEPH
St. Joseph's staff of ten, which includes six attorneys, three paralegals and one secretary, serve the 18-county area of northwest Missouri, representing clients in both rural and urban settings. Many of the cases

are family law cases involving marriage dissolution, paternity, custody and support. In addition, St. Joseph staff handles cases involving public benefits, consumer law, landlord/tenant, foreclosure, employment, guardianship and Orders of Protection.

The Emergency Shelter Grant through the City of St. Joseph helps support LAWMO staff who provide representation to individuals and families threatened with homelessness in the St. Joseph area. A grant from the Northwest Missouri Area Agency on Aging makes it possible for staff to better meet the needs of the over-60 population. A paralegal and an attorney specializing in family law practice are funded through a grant from the United Way of Greater St. Joseph. Funding from the Missouri Department of Public Safety through the STOP Violence Against Women Act provides an attorney to obtain Full Orders of Protection for victims of abuse. The Missouri Department of Public Safety, through the Victims of Crime Act grants program, provides funding to support intake services to better meet the needs of victims of abuse through referral to supportive services.

Community involvement plays a key role in the success of this office. LAWMO staff are active in a variety of organizations, committees and task forces, which serve many of the same clients. Some of those groups include Buchanan County Sexual Assault and Family Violence Council, Sr. Joseph Homeless Services Coalition and United Way Unmet Needs and Cultural Diversity Committees. The staff also work closely with the staff and advocates from the YWCA Women's Shelter and Green Hills Women's Shelter. As a result, this office has seen a broader impact on the client community through increasing case referrals and improved community education.

WEST OFFICE—KANSAS CITY

Kansas City's Westside community is served by LAWMO's bilingual staff located in an office on Southwest Boulevard. The staff includes four attorneys, four paralegals, a legal secretary and several volunteers. For the past 36 years, this dedicated LAWMO team has specialized in providing counsel and representation on issues of immigration, migrant services, economic development and housing. The following programs were developed to specifically serve the needs of the Westside community:

Economic Development Unit

The Economic Development Unit was formed to represent not-for-profit community organizations in neighborhood improvement activities, including creation of low-income housing in Kansas City. LAWMO staff attorneys provide legal assistance to low-income community groups and community development corporations seeking to rehabilitate and develop residential units in their neighborhoods. Services include land acquisition, financing, real estate closing and syndication, tax abatement, zoning and contracts with service providers.

Neighborhood Attorney Project

Since 1983, the City of Kansas City has provided funding for the Neighborhood Attorney Project (NAP) to help low- to moderate-income neighborhood groups and residents fight blighting conditions and improve substandard properties in their neighborhoods. Two LAWMO attorneys provide legal advice and counsel and investigate and collect data on problem properties and their owners. The attorneys also provide legal representation to neighborhood groups and residents in negotiations with problem property owners, and pursue

appropriate legal action against such owners when City code enforcement and other efforts have been unsuccessful. This can result in the rehabilitation of the property, or if necessary, its demolition.

Neighborhood Preservation Initiative

Since 2005, Swope Community Builders has funded a LAWMO attorney to assist residents of Ivanhoe, Mt. Cleveland, Oak Park, Sheraton Estates, Swope Parkway Elmwood and Town Fork Creek in Kansas City, doing the same kind of work as the Neighborhood Attorney Project. Without the legal advocacy LAWMO provides it is likely the owners of blighted properties would continue to ignore the neighbors' complaints and the City's property code enforcement efforts.

Immigration Law Project

LAWMO staff assist individuals and their families with immigration problems including gaining legal status, temporary and permanent resident status and U.S. citizenship. LAWMO also provides advice on immigration issues to the immigrant victims of domestic violence and training to caseworkers at domestic violence shelters and others assisting battered immigrants.

To better meet the needs of this growing population, a LAWMO attorney also trains non-attorney staff working with immigrants at other area non-profit agencies to properly complete immigration paperwork. LAWMO's expert staff answer immigration questions by phone. They also visit agencies on a regular basis, provide assistance to agencies at immigration outreach clinics in rural areas and issue regular written updates on immigration law to keep those agencies well-informed. In addition,

"Justice is the product of treating all people equal under the law."

Judge Jack R. Grote
Jackson County Circuit Court

AISYAH

Aisyah* is from Malaysia and one of 20 women found working in Johnson County, Kansas "massage parlors" who authorities believed were part of an international prostitution ring and victims of human trafficking. While most of the women were placed in a shelter, Aisyah and two others were taken into Immigration custody.

LAWMO staff worked intensively to help them pursue the options available to them. Staff communicated numerous times with Aisyah's family in New York to arrange her bond so that she could be released from Immigration as a witness. Staff pushed the FBI to interview her as soon as possible, return most of her property, issue a receipt for property kept as evidence in the criminal case against her former employer, and guarantee that she would be issued a work permit right away. Although the FBI and Immigration were interested in Aisyah's testimony, staff knew from experience that she would need a strong advocate to be sure these agencies worked in a timely manner and respected her rights.

LAWMO immigration attorney, Suzanne Gladney, spent 20 hours with Aisyah over two consecutive days, accompanying her to a three-hour FBI interview and making sure that her needs were met. Suzanne also ensured that Aisyah had a way to travel to New York as soon as possible. There simply was no other local advocate or organization available to provide this immediate, comprehensive assistance.

Months later, Aisyah frequently calls LAWMO and the staff provide her with practical legal advice reassuring her that she can find new work without fear of arrest and explaining the terms of her current visa. In addition and as important, they offer her compassion and moral support. Aisyah remains traumatized from her 34 days in Immigration custody and the abusive experiences that preceded it. With the intervention and legal assistance LAWMO was able to provide Aisyah, she will have much better opportunities for a safe and fulfilling life.



*NOT CLIENT'S REAL PHOTO

the Project provides counsel for individuals facing deportation and seeking work permits. LAWMO offers the only free legal representation in immigration cases in western Missouri and in Kansas. Funding for this project comes in part from the Jewish Heritage Foundation of Greater Kansas City, United Methodist Western Kansas Mexican American Ministries, InterServ of St. Joseph, Diocese of Jefferson City and private donors.

55/15 Naturalization Project

The “55/15” naturalization project is a program through which qualified immigrants, who are more than 55 years old and have more than 15 years as legal residents, can take the citizenship exam in their native language. Citizenship enables individuals to vote, travel more freely and advance petitions for their spouses and children. LAWMO accompanies these applicants to the Immigration office at least two to three times for their fingerprinting, civics examination, interview and oath ceremony.

LAWMO refers applicants to citizenship preparation classes in their area and monitors their applications.

LAWMO coordinated with St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Kennett and Migrant Whole Health Outreach (MWHO) to take Bootheel farmworker applicants to the Immigration office in St. Louis for their interviews to meet LAWMO staff. Staff also meet southwest Missouri naturalization clients at Immigration’s Kansas City office for their interviews. The success of this program is increasing interest in ESL/citizenship preparation classes and encouraging more “55/15” applicants to contact LAWMO for assistance. Client interest in the program increased in 2007 because of the upcoming 2008 elections. Many wanted to become US citizens in order to vote and more fully participate in their communities.

Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Abuse Assistance Project

Battered immigrants, fearful of threats from their abusers that they will be arrested, deported and separated from their children, often seek help from area domestic violence shelters and counseling centers. Advocates across Missouri report ever-increasing needs for immigration assistance by the victims they assist. A national study cites legal aid as the single most important factor in reducing domestic violence and access to legal services as one of the primary factors that causes a decrease in the reported incidence of domestic violence.

LAWMO’s Project has a two-pronged mission: to provide advice, referral and legal assistance for battered immigrants; and to educate diverse communities of advocates about the legal remedies and benefits available to eligible battered immigrants and how to properly seek them. The many different elements of the situation must be known before the immigrant can be helped with housing, employment and public benefits. Many times lost or withheld immigration documents need to be quickly replaced.

LAWMO’s Project, now in its fourth full year, reported the number of battered immigrant women and children served increased in 2007 by more than 100%. Contacts were received from more than 30 different agencies needing advice for a battered immigrant victim. This project is funded by Paul Shumaker, Kansas City Visitation Catholic Church Social Concerns Ministry and the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries.

“Justice means being treated with dignity and respect, like every human being should be and is entitled to.”

Brie Denzer
LAWMO Central Office

Migrant Farmworkers Project

"Justice is the overall equality to all, not only those who can afford it. Justice is balance and, in many cases, the seams that seal the wound."

*Cindy Aytes
LAWMO Topeka*

A severe freeze occurred in April and damaged an estimated 48 million pounds of apples throughout the state. Orchards in Lafayette County lost 90 to 95 percent of their crops. Accordingly, orchards reduced their harvest work forces and LAWMO's Migrant Farmworkers Project encountered only 298 migrant adults and children in Lafayette County in 2007, compared to approximately 450 in a normal year.

The Project has developed special expertise and compassion in dealing with this important population of farmworkers who bring food to America's tables.

Through this program, services are provided to a population that is often invisible and frequently falls between the cracks of conventional assistance. Funding for the Project comes from the Legal Services Corporation, Paul Shumaker, Health Care Foundation and other private donations.

CENTRAL OFFICE – KANSAS CITY

The Central office maintains a staff of 31 full-time attorneys, 12 full-time paralegals, eight law students, five full-time and three part-time clerical staff. LAWMO's administrative staff are also housed here. Clients in Jackson, Clay and Platte counties are offered legal services that help provide a safe and healthy environment for individuals and families.

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) provides a grant from the Area Agency on Aging to fund legal services to the elderly. Other projects have been developed by LAWMO's Central office staff to address the special needs of our clients. They include:

AIDS Legal Assistance Project

This program assists people who have been denied access to housing or who have been threatened with eviction because they have HIV/AIDS; those terminated from jobs because of their illness or their association with a high-risk group; and those who have been denied insurance coverage because of claims, among others, that the HIV/AIDS diagnosis was a pre-existing condition. These clients are also assisted with preparing wills, durable powers of attorney and permanency planning for their children.

A LAWMO attorney provides outreach to the Kansas City Free Health Clinic and other AIDS service organizations as requested. The attorney regularly advises caregivers and other social service agencies regarding the legal rights of those living with AIDS. The attorney also staffs the HIV/AIDS Legal Assistance Hotline to directly assist not only those infected with HIV/AIDS, but also anyone affected by someone with the illness. Those infected have immediate and confidential access to a LAWMO attorney. Family

members, loved ones, friends, caregivers, caseworkers and peers at work or school may also receive legal advice from a LAWMO attorney.

Funding from the Heart of America Community AIDS Partnership made it possible to redesign and print the fourth edition of *Positively Legal: Legal Handbook for Persons with HIV*. The handbook provides important legal information to HIV-positive individuals and is available on LAWMO's website, www.lawmo.org.

Predatory Lending Project
A two-year grant from the National Legal Aid and Defender Association and the National Consumer Law Center provided partial funding for LAWMO's predatory lending project from April of 2005 through March of 2007. A LAWMO attorney represented low-income homeowners in Kansas City's urban core who were at risk of losing their homes to foreclosure as a result of predatory loans. In several cases she was able to stop the foreclosures by filing Chapter 13 bankruptcies and/or lawsuits challenging the legality of the loan. LAWMO now uses private donations and other funding to continue this project.

LAWMO and Westside Housing Organization (WHO) continued a partnership created to help stop predatory loans before they happen. Every year, many seniors living on a fixed income lose their homes to foreclosure as a result of predatory loans that they are steered to by contractors who do home repairs in Kansas City's urban core. In exchange for the loan referrals, the lenders often pay the contractors in full for their work before the work has even been started. This results in seniors having low-quality home repairs and high-cost loans they cannot afford.

In the Good Hammer Project, WHO has created a pool of contractors who agree to do home repairs for senior citizens. The contractors agree not to accept payment for their repair work until the work has been completed, inspected and approved by an inspector on staff at WHO. The contractors also agree to guarantee their work for a year. They will also only refer home owners to Good Hammer lenders. Those lenders have agreed to make 5 percent, fixed rate loans. Seniors participating in the project have up to 10 years to repay the loans. LAWMO staff review loan terms with seniors before they enter into the loans, so the seniors will understand the loan terms and consequences before they agree to them.

The Project is an innovative way to stop predatory loans before they happen and provides a strong economic incentive for reputable lenders and contractors to do good work and make reasonable loans to finance that work.

'The Medicaid Appeals Project'

In the first two years of LAWMO's Medicaid Appeals project at Truman Medical Center, LAWMO provided legal assistance to 873 TMC patients. Legal Aid pursued Medicaid appeals for 443 of these patients and obtained Medicaid benefits for 422 or 95% of them. As a result of Legal Aid's work on the first two years of the project, TMC received \$2,995,088 in Medicaid payments for services that it has provided these 422 patients. This amounts to \$6,776 per successful representation and \$3,430 per referral that TMC's staff has made to the project.

'The project not only is financially rewarding for TMC, it also results in substantial additional benefits for TMC's patients. When a patient obtains

"Justice is something we continually strive for, long for, and when found gives the legal system its true measure of worth."

Beverly K. Jones
LAWMO Board of Trustees

"Justice: When we are wronged, we want to be righted. We want to know

that lessons have been learned and this mistake will not repeat. Only true justice can guarantee the level of fairness, honesty and integrity to accomplish this goal."

*Lyn Kossi
LAWMO Board of Trustees*

Medicaid coverage, the patient can access ongoing and preventive medical treatment. This means, for example, that a patient with high blood pressure can get medication to reduce her blood pressure. If left untreated, the blood pressure might have resulted in the patient suffering a stroke. By assuring ongoing medical treatment, access to the project improves the patients' quality of life. The project also allows the TMC patients who obtain Medicaid benefits to have access to other providers of medical services in the Kansas City area and allows those providers to be paid for the medical care they provide these patients.

Finally, the project also provides basic advice to TMC patients to make sure that they receive the full benefit of their Medicaid coverage. For example, the casehandlers working on the project make sure that TMC patients understand spenddown requirements and, in doing so, make it easier for the patients to satisfy those requirements and obtain coverage. LAWMO staff also advise clients on how to comply with their reporting requirements so they can obtain or continue to receive Medicaid. This type of advice was provided to 308 clients in the project's first two years.

Advocates for Family Health
Funded by a grant from the Missouri Department of Social Services, LAWMO's Advocates for Family Health program is an ombudsman service providing advocacy and education in the western Missouri Managed Care service area. Program staff work closely with the Family Support Division (FSD), the four local managed care health plans, the MO HealthNet Division (MHD), county health departments, local schools, and other organizations and coalitions to provide access to health insurance benefits for qualified families with children.

Program staff advocate for children, low-income parents, and pregnant women in court and administrative hearings to ensure they receive the full benefits of their medical coverage through their MO HealthNet Program. Program staff also assist clients by answering questions about MO HealthNet, providing information about the application process and income eligibility, and assisting the FSD in verifying client eligibility. Project staff cooperate with the FSD to resolve systemic problems in the application procedures and negotiate with health plans when services or treatment are denied to enrollees.

legal counsel and representation at no charge to the client. The Project attorney also presented training sessions and written materials to MARC, senior center and other agency staff to assist them in counseling elders about debt and making appropriate referrals for legal assistance.

Elderly Bankruptcy Education Project
In partnership with the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) through a grant funded by the Jewish Heritage Foundation, a half-time LAWMO attorney counseled senior individuals and groups about handling over-burdensome debt and about the new bankruptcy law. Helping seniors resolve their financial problems empowers them to choose the best possible solution to meet their overall needs. In cases where bankruptcy relief is the most beneficial option, a LAWMO attorney or volunteer attorney provided

Pro Se Marriage Dissolution Classes
At the Central office, volunteer attorneys, assisted by a LAWMO paralegal, teach LAWMO clients how to file and obtain an uncontested divorce

without representation by an attorney. In addition, a LAWMO staff attorney teaches a dissolution class for Jackson County residents with children, who have no property or custody disputes. A volunteer attorney teaches a class to clients with and without children who reside in Clay County. In 2007, 50 participants were trained to represent themselves in dissolution of marriage proceedings.

Medical-Legal Partnership with Children's Mercy Hospital

With funding from grants from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City and the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC), Legal Aid of Western Missouri has collaborated with Children's Mercy Hospital in a new partnership in which LAWMO staff will work with the hospital to improve the health outcomes of CMH patients. The Legal Aid-CMH collaboration will strive to provide children and families with access to legal services that will ensure that their basic needs for food, housing, education, health care, and safety are met—especially when those needs affect their health. For instance, many of the asthmatic children whom CMH doctors treat live in apartments that have mold or roach infestations that can make their asthma much worse. LAWMO can advocate with landlords to correct these housing code violations or to allow the family to move to healthier housing, allowing the children who are living in these conditions to reduce asthmatic symptoms and lead healthier, happier lives. The partnership is associated with the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC), which was founded at Boston Medical Center in 1993. The partnership model has now been replicated at over 60 children's hospitals and pediatric departments nationwide.

Homeless Prevention Project

The Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City estimates that in Kansas City between 13,000 and 15,000 persons are homeless each year. This number includes those living on the streets, staying at a shelter or living with friends or relatives because they cannot afford a home of their own. According to the Coalition, on any given day in 2007, approximately 400 families, including 800 children, and approximately 1,200 individual adults were homeless.

As the need for affordable housing increases, the availability spirals ever downward. In Kansas City, there is a waiting list of approximately 2,500 names for public housing and over 5,000 applicants are waiting to receive Section 8 assistance. With the help of several funding sources, LAWMO has developed special programs designed to help families and individuals retain, improve or expand housing opportunities in Kansas City, the second largest city in Missouri. A Jackson County Housing Resources Commission grant funds an attorney to handle exclusively cases that have a direct bearing on a person's ability to maintain or obtain housing. These types of cases include threatened creditor and property tax foreclosures, bankruptcy, home repair fraud and other consumer finance issues. Through Community Development Block Grant funding provided by Missouri's Family Support Division, United Services Community Action Agency funds The Homeless Challenge Grant, which supports staff who represent individuals and families faced with loss of their homes.

"Justice is helping my clients have access to the same health care services that I would want my family and friends to receive and that I would want to receive myself."

*Katie Lamb
LAWMO Central Office*

"from my perspective, justice is allowing all parties to be heard and then rendering a decision based on the facts and applicable law."

Judge Lisa White Hardwick
Missouri Court of Appeals

Municipal Court Defense Unit
Funded by a contract with the City of Kansas City, a LAWMO staff of nine full-time attorneys and two part-time attorneys provide representation to indigents charged with jailable offenses in the city's municipal courts. In 2007, these attorneys handled 6,701 cases (over 16,500 charges) so that every person facing a serious charge was assured constitutionally mandated and highly skilled legal representation.

Mental Health Court
In 2007, the Jackson County Mental Health Board funded a full-time attorney to represent clients facing municipal charges whose cases are appropriately handled in the Mental Health Court. The purpose of

this project is to improve access to treatment for the mentally ill by diverting them from incarceration to community agencies that provide treatment and track and reinforce their progress in the program.

Collaborators include Swope Parkway Mental Health, Truman Behavioral Health, Kansas City City Prosecutors Office, State Public Defenders Office, Municipal Correctional Institute (MCI), Lee's Summit Prosecutors Office and Rediscover. Additional collaborators include law enforcement crisis intervention (CIT), Independence Prosecutors Office, NAMI – National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and Veronica's Voice.

BETTY

Betty* is a 52-year-old woman from Warrensburg with Hepatitis C and liver damage. Because of the severity of her illness, her doctor in Kansas City prescribed two hepatitis drugs, completed paperwork for Medicare approval of the drugs and submitted the documents to Medicare. The doctor's request for approval was denied.

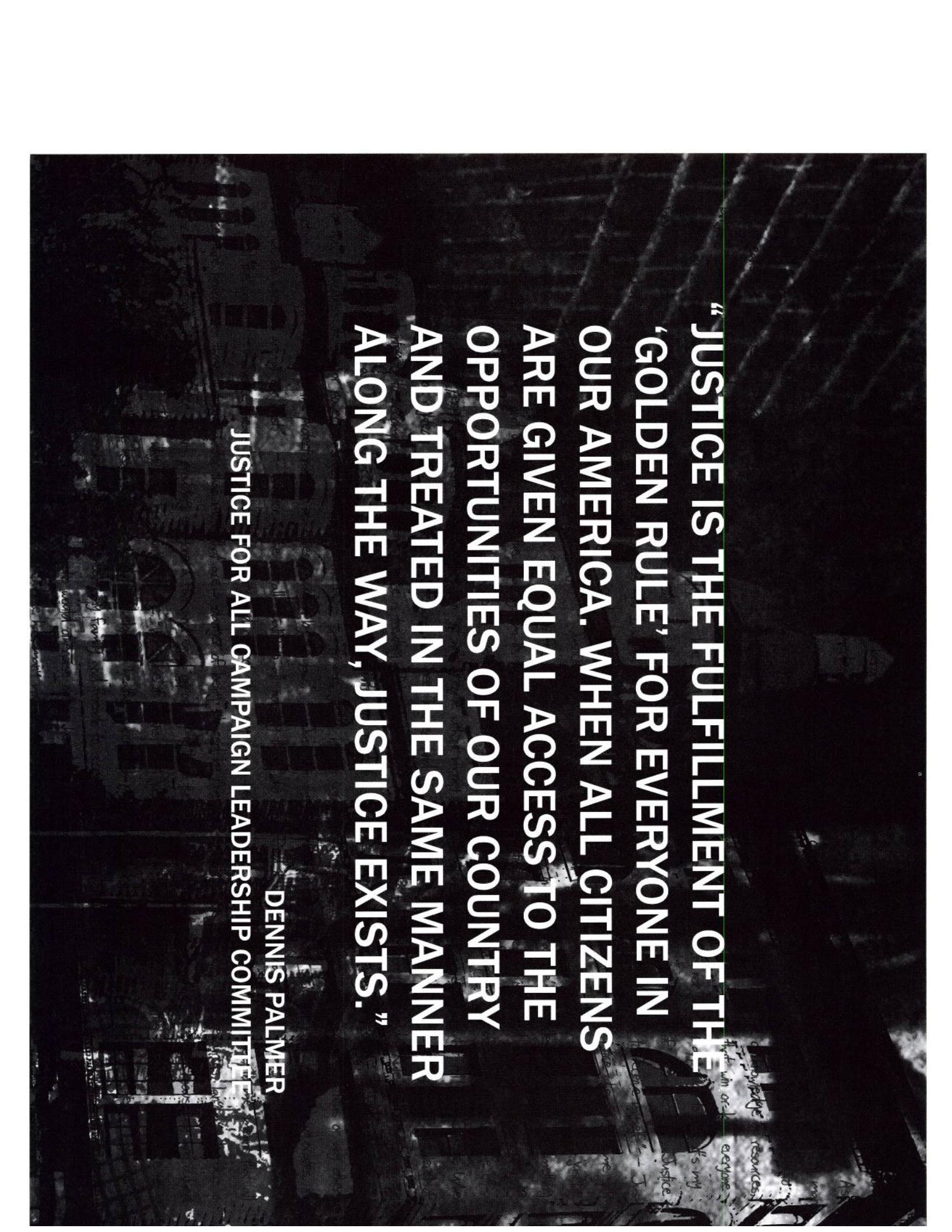
Betty contacted several organizations that manage Medicare's prescription services, but had difficulty communicating with these organizations and understanding their requirements. She made an appeal herself on one of the drugs and was denied. She also was unable to locate her previous doctor to obtain the records of her prior treatment, which was one of the requirements.

Ultimately, Betty contacted LAWMO and staff assisted her by successfully locating the physician and obtaining the medical records that documented her previous treatment. LAWMO then requested a Redetermination on both drugs and assembled a packet of evidence. Work was just beginning to request an Administrative Law Judge hearing on the prescription denials when approval for the drugs came through. Betty started her treatment program.

*NOT CLIENT'S REAL NAME OR PHOTO



2007 LAWMO STAFF	Autumn Jurado Sara Juarez Karen Karnes Susan Kephart Selina Khan Sandra Kincaid Lisa Kivett Kathy Anderson-Reinke Elisabeth Bach Van Horn Michelle Bailey-Tucker Wanda Banks Tama Byrnes Christi Campos Mary Chandler Diane Christrup Mary Corwin Erin Cozad Crystal Crowder Karen Cutliff Amanda Dalsing Effie Day Briana Denzer Mary Beth Denzer Frank DiMaggio Marie Dispenza Diana Erickson Katie Foster Rachel Gayley Jennifer Gay Tracie Griddine Richard Halliburton Larry Hamel Barbara Hardin Scott Hartley Vince Hayes Amber Henry Leslie Hubble Sara Iavarra Jessie Johnson Joy Jones	West Office Eric Tanner Billie Taylor Penny Vogt Lida Watson Jane Worley Mitchell Wood Tonya Klima Sarah Lafex Katie Lamb Caroline LaVallee Garland Lesane Julie Levin Charity Lindgren Gregg Lombardi Eddie Lorenzo Pamela May Bryan Martin Sam McHenry Susan McRill Allie Meiers Dale Meyer Lily Miller Ana Mitchell V. Megan Murphy Nisha Naik Maria Pence Sara Olazar Billie Orr J. Alan Reynolds Jason Rice Fred Rich Michael Rinard Brooke Roelofsen Cynthia Rountree Cody Russell Julia Schafermeyer Stacy Schaub James Smith Annie Struby	Carla Jahnke Suzan Brown Justen Smith Nicholas Drechsel West Office Stacey Blakeman Robert Clark Lourdes Figueiro Ellen Ganitz Mercedes Gonzales Brad Grabs Amado Guzman Ben Harville Ellen Jensby Rachel King Victoria Kline Stephanie Marquez Shane Moorisey Katie Morgan Kate Paulman Paul Snyder Paul Tancredi Shawn Tracy Jared Williams Dawn Williams Jacquelyn Williams Candice Williams 2007 INTERNS/ VOLUNTEERS Brenda Arndt Linda Clark Lisa Clark Tiffany Hollon John Keiffer Jerre Moore Jennifer Soper Douglas Tschauder Tiffany Tant-Shafer Lara Plaisance Ashley Robinson Brooke Roelofson Watertown Jennifer Albertson Kelly Bartlett Kim Basinger Linda Carter Susan Hanrahan Tricia Johnson Amy Klug William Shull St. Joseph Birgit Kuehn Benjamin Stawson	"Equal justice for all is what we strive for and hopefully obtain." Judge Scott O. Wright US District Court
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**"JUSTICE IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE
'GOLDEN RULE' FOR EVERYONE IN
OUR AMERICA. WHEN ALL CITIZENS
ARE GIVEN EQUAL ACCESS TO THE
OPPORTUNITIES OF OUR COUNTRY
AND TREATED IN THE SAME MANNER
ALONG THE WAY, JUSTICE EXISTS."**

DENNIS PALMER
JUSTICE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

THE YEAR IN ACTION

THE VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT

The Volunteer Attorney Project (VAP) places LAWMO clients with private attorneys who agree to provide free legal representation to those who otherwise could not afford it. The private attorneys who volunteer their time through VAP believe in the principle of equal access to the legal system, of making “justice for all” more than just a promise. These attorneys are convinced that our legal system must work for all its citizens, and they donate their time and considerable talents to make that ideal a reality. During 2007, VAP attorneys provided 4,467 hours of representation to hundreds of clients, equal to \$670,070.00 in attorney time.

Beyond representing individual clients referred by LAWMO, volunteer attorneys also provide assistance through several special projects and services. Each month volunteers visit senior sites, such as MARC nutritional centers, to provide legal counsel, advice and representation to those in need. Since 1992, VAP, in conjunction with Children’s Mercy Hospital, has operated the Project Consent program. Project Consent provides legal assistance to grandparents and other non-custodial caregivers of minor children in need of legal authorization to consent to medical treatment and educational needs. Pro se (for yourself) marriage dissolution classes are also taught by volunteer attorneys. The classes offer eligible applicants step-by-step

instruction on how to prepare and represent themselves in dissolution of marriage proceedings.

Through the Abandoned Housing Act Project, volunteers provide representation to neighborhood associations by filing lawsuits under the local Abandoned Housing Act and/or private nuisance actions in an effort to eliminate abandoned and blighted properties throughout the community. Following the success of the lawsuits, the neighborhood associations take responsibility for restoring and maintaining the properties. In 2007 the law firm of Bryan Cave LLP provided representation to the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council. Plans are underway to expand to the Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood in 2008.

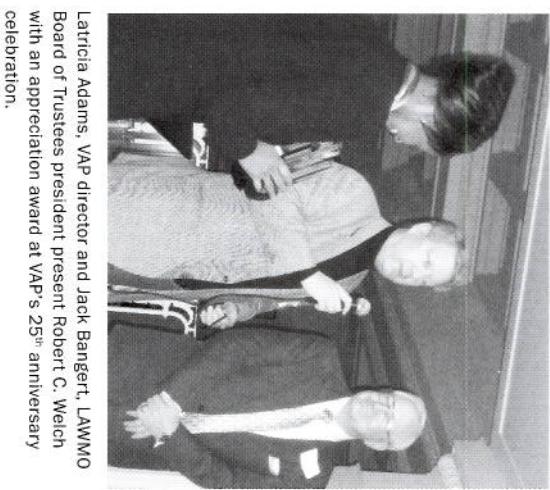
In 2007, the Urban Core Estate Planning Project (UCEPP) began operation with 14 new volunteers. UCEPP was developed to provide basic estate planning services to senior citizen property owners living in low-income neighborhoods. The primary focus of the project is to help the homeowners properly convey their homes to their intended beneficiaries. By providing these services, the number of homes inappropriately titled will be reduced, giving the new homeowners proper ownership and the ability to obtain quality home improvement loans for maintaining the property. UCEPP also provides assistance in obtaining wills, medical directives and powers of attorney. Thirty-three clients received assistance in 2007.

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT

On November 1, 2007, VAP celebrated 25 years of serving the community at a reception honoring the 1,273 lawyers who in the past 25 years gave generously of their time and talents. The reception was held at Union Station in Kansas City. In the last quarter century VAP provided services to nearly 11,000 indigent clients with services offered during this period totaling nearly 73,000 hours of pro bono representation.

The Volunteer Attorney Project would like to acknowledge and thank the following attorneys who generously donated their expertise to LAWMO in 2007:

Kansas City		
John Aisenbrey	Paul Blackman	Matthew J. Crimmins
Millard Aldridge	Jonathan A. Bortnick	J. Michael Cronan
Jason Amerine	Steve Bough	Fred Crouch
David Anderson	W. Perry Brandt	Keith Cutler
Teresa L. Anderson	Kevin Breer	Jason Davey
Louis Angles	Gerald W. Brenneman	Heywood Davis
Angela Armenta	Doug Breyfogle	Kendall Day
Dwight Ann	John Brigg	Dean Courtney
Russell C. Ashley	Timothy Brownlee	Jay DeHart
Louis E. Austin, Jr.	Lee B. Brumitt	Sherry DeJanes
Elizabeth Badger	Fred Bryant	John Dennis
Bernard Balkin	Megal Buil	Diane Denniston
James Barker	Brett Burmeister	James Derting
David R. Barlow	Doug Breyfogle	Kent H. Desselle
Tiffany Barmann	Anita Butler	Daniel Devine
Robert R. Barton	Kirsten Anne Byrd	Janeen DeVries
Regina Bass	Robert N. Calbi	Troy L. Dietrich
Thad Batson	Joe Cambiano	Brian J. Doherty
Sarah Baxter	John R. Campbell, Jr.	Phil Donnellan
Byron Beck	Lydia Carson	Sarah Downs
Richard Becker	Michele Chollet	Mary Ann Drape
James Bell	Carl R. Clark	Robert Dunford
Kara Bemboom	Casey Connealy	Steven Efferz
Tom Bender	Kathleen Coode	Nathalie Elliott
Gail Berkowitz	David Cooper	Richard English
Judith Berry	Barbara Corbin	James H. Ensz
Marry Ellen Bigge	Edward Coulson	Addam G. Fera
	James Crews	Brian Fields



VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT

Kathleen A. Jeanetta
James Jenkins
Matthew Jennings
Dorothy Jensen
Joseph Jeppson
Nancy Jochens
Evan Kaploe
Barry Katz
Carol Kitzer
Naomi Kauffman
Kathleen Kedign
David Kenner
Joyce Kerber
Teresa M. Kidd
J. Scott King
D. Bryant King, III
Kurt King
Stephen King
David Kirk
Elaine Koch
Lloyd Koelker
Frank Koranda
Erlene Krigel
Jason Kuesser
John Kurtz
Anna Labella
Lauri Laughland
Robert Lawson
Adam Leatherwood
Kathryn Lee
Theresa Leving
Howard L. Lotven
Kay Madden
Jean Maneke
David Marcus
Alan Markowitz
Stephen Mayer
Charles McKeon
Deloss McKnight, III
James McLarenay

Lisa McWilliams
Shane Mecham
Martin N. Meyers
Erik Moore
Jason Moore
Mindy Morse
Gary Mouse
James Mueller
Michael J. Murphy
Mackenzie Murphy-Wilfong
Molly Nail
Phyllis Norman
Hugh O'Donnell
Vincent O'Flaherty
Janet Oliver
James Overman
Brad Pemberton
Jim Petrie
Roger Phillips
William D. Piedmonte
Kathryn Pietarila
John Pink
Michael Post
Susan Prather
Charlene Probst
William Ramey
Talia Ravis
Megan Redmond
Roger Reyes
Robert W. Richards
Jason Roach
Adam Leatherwood
Kathryn Lee
Theresa Leving
Howard L. Lotven
Kay Madden
Jean Maneke
David Marcus
Alan Markowitz
Stephen Mayer
Charles McKeon
Deloss McKnight, III
James McLarenay

John Sommer
David Spencer
Bruce Strauss
Steven Streen
Michael Svetlic
James Swaney
Linda H. Tabory
Paul Tancredi
Johanna Teike
Cassandra L. Terhune
Frederick Thompson, IV
Kelly Tobin
Laurence Tucker
Laura Tyler
Mary A. Vogt
Courtney Waits
Adam Walker
Jill Watskey
Henry Watson
Ryan Watson
Brian Webb
Doug Wermhoff
Frank Wendt
Kent Whittaker
Jeremy Wikler
Joe Willerth
Barbara Williams
John L. Williams
Leslie Williams
Thomas Willy
Brent Winterberg
C. Brooks Wood
Robert Zeldin
Eric Ziegenhorn
Dan Zmijewski

Joplin
Brandon Fisher
Tina Longnecker

St. Joseph
David Bolander
Tara Cluck
G. Brent Powers
Jacqueline D. Ross
David Schmitt
Tom Summers
Kathy Wood

Warrensburg
From Warrensburg
Steve Angle
Daniel Carter
Spencer Eisenmenger
Kelly Hartford-Rose
Karen Hunt
James Kjar
David Lloyd
April McLaughlin
Jason Moore
Randy Schrackelford
James Switzer
Melanie Weaver
Mary Ann Young

WHY VOLUNTEER?
"My client gave me a big
hug after the hearing —
that's pretty rare!"
Richard English

"I like that this program
makes available the legal
system to those who normally
could not afford it."
Brian Welsh

"It puts me in touch with
people who truly have
a need for free legal
assistance."
Sherry DeJanes

"I think this program is
providing an invaluable
service and I recommend it
to other attorneys."
Betsy Sharp

VAP GOLF TOURNAMENT

"Justice to me is:
Righting a wrong!"

The Volunteer Attorney Project extends special recognition and appreciation to The Bar Plan Foundation for their contributions and support of our 12th annual benefit golf tournament. Special thanks to Kris Riddell, the law firm of Rouse Hendricks German May PC, Bob Murray, Tim Monses, Jim Arnett, our golfers and the following individuals, law firms and businesses that have graciously contributed to the success of this event.

Latricia Adams
Law/DO Central Office

American Jazz Museum
American Royal
Association

Arby's United States

Beef Corporation

CNA - Jan Frank

The Carl森 Center

Comfort Suites -

Independence

Crown Center Shops

Danka

Double Tree Hotel-

Overland Park

Folly Theater

Gates Bar-B-Q

George Brett's on the

Plaza

Holiday Inn Express-

Independence

Holtz Executive Village-

Overland Park

Kansas City Repertory

Theatre

Kansas City Symphony

Kansas City Zoo

M & S Grill

National Archives and Records

Administration

National Frontier Trails Center of

Independence

Negro League Baseball Museum

Omaha Steaks

Panera Original Bread, Inc.

Ponak's

Powell Gardens

Powerplay Family

Entertainment Center

Rouse Hendricks German May PC
Monses, Miller, Mayer,
Prestley & Amick, PC

Polsinelli Shalton Flanigan
Sueithaus PC

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Blackwell Sanders LLP

The Daily Record

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Tournament winners Scott Hofer, Foland, Wickens, Eisfelder, Roper & Hofer, PC.; Joe Roper, Foland, Wickens, Eisfelder, Roper & Hofer, PC; and Kevin Prenger. (NOT PICTURED: Jim Foland)

9TH ANNUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL LUNCHEON FEATURING ELIZABETH ECKFORD & KEN REINHARDT

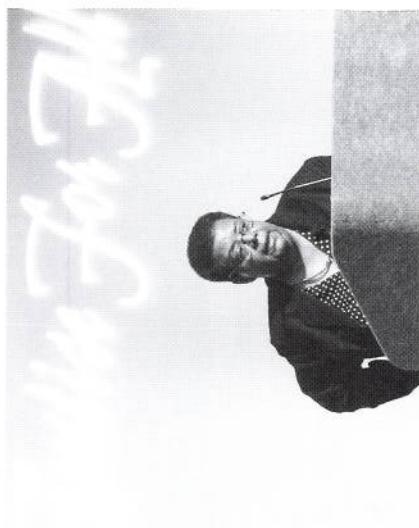
Elizabeth Eckford, who made history fifty years ago as a member of the Little Rock Nine, the nine African American students who desegregated Little Rock, Arkansas Central High School in 1957, spoke at Legal Aid of Western Missouri's (LAWMO) Ninth Annual Justice for All Luncheon on Thursday, June 21, 2007. Ms. Eckford was joined by fellow classmate, Ken Reinhardt, one of the few white students to treat the black students with grace and respect following the integration.

Over 600 members of the bar, judges and other distinguished guests gathered in the Muehlebach Tower of the Kansas City Marriott Downtown to hear compelling first-hand accounts of the historical time in 1957 when Little Rock became a battleground in the struggle for civil rights.

Ms. Eckford and Mr. Reinhardt spoke in tandem about their Central High experience. While it would be easy to be bitter regarding her struggle, Ms. Eckford stays away from those feelings. "There's really no bitterness, but I do tell people that to have a true reconciliation, you have to recognize your past," she said. "It's not just a few people acting up, racism is institutional," Ms. Eckford continued. She said that racism is systemic and the only thing different today is the behavior. She asked the audience not to hesitate to reach out to others who are picked on or shunned and stressed how powerful they can be to someone who is being harassed. "Reach out to them," she said, "You can help someone live. You can be powerful to someone, even those who are treated as if they're despised. Don't turn your back as if something didn't happen."

The JFA Luncheon, co-sponsored this year by Davis, Bethune & Jones, L.L.C., Hubbard & Kuritz, L.L.P. and Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P. is held annually as a thank you to donors. Money raised from the luncheon was added to the Justice for All Campaign, helping LAWMO reach its three-year Campaign goal of \$1.5 million.

Former Little Rock Nine member, Elizabeth Eckford, shared her experience with guests at the 2007 JFA Luncheon.



JFA Campaign Committee members, John Kurtz and Pat McLarney, visit with Ken Reinhardt (CENTER).

DOING YOUR COMMUNITY JUSTICE: KICK-OFF RECEPTION IS A HUGE SUCCESS

Over 150 guests joined the Justice for All Campaign Leadership Committee as LAWMO's new \$1.75 million, three-year Justice for All Campaign was launched. The private reception took place on Monday, October 22, 2007 at The College Basketball Experience, a new venue in downtown Kansas City adjacent to the Sprint Center. The event also celebrated surpassing the \$1.5 million dollar goal in the previous three-year campaign.



Jack Bangert, JFA Committee Co-chair and LAWMO Executive Director, Dick Halliburton, LAWMO Executive Director and Jerry Wolf, JFA Committee Co-chair with the \$1,519,688.00 "big check".

LAWMO executive director Dick Halliburton presented Jack and Jerry with plaques honoring them for their work chairing the successful campaign. Throughout the evening a running loop thanked all major donors to the campaign on twenty screens throughout the high-tech venue.

U.S. District Judge Nannette Laughrey presented Matthew O'Connor with the 2007 Honorable H. Michael Coburn Community Service Award for his volunteer work on behalf of those affected by Hurricane Katrina and his other volunteer efforts in the community. The annual award honors one local attorney who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to serving the public and addressing the challenges of low-income people.

Gordon and Willie closed the program by announcing the new campaign goal and slogan "Doing Your Community Justice." Gordon thanked Shook, Hardy & Bacon for donating the design and printing of the materials for the new campaign, which encourages three-year pledges and will run until August 2010.

Following the program guests were able to participate in the many interactive basketball displays and games.

2004/2007* JFA CAMPAIGN SURPASSES \$1.5 MILLION GOAL

As Legal Aid of Western Missouri's Justice for All Campaign looks toward the future and launches its new three-year campaign, we would like to pause and thank the law firms, corporations, foundations and individuals who supported our previous three-year campaign helping us surpass our \$1.5 million goal. Your generous contributions to the three-year campaign allowed LAWMO to close over 37,000 cases and positively impact the lives of more than 62,000 men, women and children.

\$180,000 AND ABOVE

The Children of Beth and Ed Smith
(3-year contribution of \$195,000)
Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.
(3-year pledge of \$180,000)

Jenning & Bough, PC
James, Totta & Parrish, LLC
Kenner & Kavanaugh, P.C.
McIntosh Law Firm, P.C.
Law Office of Sharon J. Meyers
Miller & Company, P.C.

\$60,000 AND ABOVE

Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP
(3-year pledge of \$90,000)
Lathrop & Gage, L.C.
(3-year pledge of \$80,000)
Polisnelli Shalton Flanagan Suelthaus PC
(3-year pledge of \$60,000)

Siegfreid, Bingham, Levy, Seizer & Gee
Shamberg, Johnson & Bergman, Chartered
Siro & Moyer
Slough, Connealy, Irwin & Madden, LLC
Sonnen schein Nath & Rosenthal LLP
Sturdevant Law Office
Watson & Marshall L.C.
(Former Members of)
Wyrsch Hobbs & Mirakian, P.C.

\$30,000 AND ABOVE OR \$500 PER ATTORNEY

Badger & Levings
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Ewing M. Kauffman Fund
Hallmark Cards, Inc. Legal Department
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Jewish Heritage Foundation of
Greater Kansas City
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Shughart Thomson & Kilroy, P.C.
Spencer Fane Britt & Browne LLP
Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP

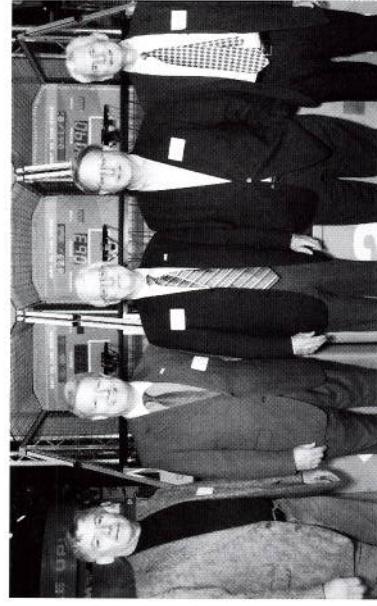
American Century Foundation
Armstrong Teasdale L.L.P.
Baker Sternchi Cowden & Rice, L.L.C.
Bernstein-Rein Advertising, Inc.
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Pfizer, Inc., Legal Department
Rouse Hendricks German May P.C.
Sherman Taff Bangert Thomas
& Coronado, P.C.

\$15,000 AND ABOVE OR \$200 PER ATTORNEY

DST Systems, Inc.
(3-year pledge of \$15,000)
Bartimus, Frickleton, Robertson &
Gorni, P.C.
John R. Cullom & Associates
Gilmore & Bell, P.C.



Marcia and Joel Votan enjoy the kick-off reception held at the College Basketball Experience.



L to R: JFA Campaign Committee member, Bill Farrar; LAWMO Board president & JFA Campaign Committee member, Jack Bangert; LAWMO executive director Richard Halliburton with JFA Campaign Committee members, Andy See and Dennis Palmer.

*DONATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN 7-31-04 AND 8-1-07

2004/2007 JUSTICE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN

"Justice can only be achieved when divine solutions are applied to human circumstances."

INDIVIDUALS	
\$1,000 AND ABOVE Wagstaff & Cartmell L.L.P. Allmayer & Associates, P.C. Aquila, Inc. Atterbury Family Foundation Berkowitz & Cook Berkowitz Oliver Williams Shaw & Eisenblatt LLP Blackwood, Langworthy & Tyson, L.C. Richard P. and Jane Bruening Foundation Cerner Corporation Legal Group Dysart Taylor Lay Cotter & McMonigle, P.C. Ensz & Jester, P.C. Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation J. E. Dunn Construction Company Kansas City Life Insurance Company Kansas City Southern Industries, Inc. Krigel & Krigel, P.C. Krigel Family Charitable Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City The Louis and Dorothy Cumonow Foundation McElligott, Ewan, Hall & Kimmianu, P.C. National Crop Insurance Services Redteam Law Firm, P.C. Rubins, Kase, Hager, Cambiano & Bryant The Sly James Firm, Trial Lawyers, P.C. Stueve, Siegel, Hanson, Woody LLP Tension Envelope Foundation Turner & Sweeny Welch, Martin & Albano, LLC	C. Patrick McLarney Day Miller Robert E. Northrip Robert P. O'Brien John R. Owen Michael K. Pedersen Albert A. Riederer Douglas R. Rushing Hon. Orrie D. Smith Eileen S. Sullivan Niles R. Swenson Marcia M. Thomas Robert M. Thompson Gene E. Voights \$500 AND ABOVE Rob Adams John & Ellen Aisenbrey Ronald C. Baird Hon. George C. Berry Gary & Kathryn Bussing Otis H. Cowan, III Ida Pearl Fain Allan B. Fischer Carol F. Fowler Mr. & Mrs. Donald W. Griffin Gail & Paulette Harkrader Jane E. Hart William A. Hirsch Sherry L. Laudegis Connie Jones & Ashe Jones Lisa Lattan Gregg F. Lombardi Lynn R. Marasco Kenneth A. Mason Steven E. Mauer Stephen M. Mauer J. Scott McCandless J. Gary McEachen Therese J. McGill Samuel McHenry Susan P. McRill Dennis D. Palmer Nancy Panzer-Howell Cynthia Dillard Parres Robert J. Payne Robert M. Pitkin
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Margo Quiriconi
Jerry D. Frank
James Wm. Roberts
Sarah J. Schlicher
Sylvan P. Siegler
Randy Sims
Tracy L. Smedley
State of Missouri
Deanne R. Stedem
Robert C. Storey
Mark Andrew Thornhill
Terence J. Thum
Thomas W. Van Dyke
Catherine J. Watson
& Donald C. O'Brien
Robert C. Welch
David L. West
Victoria Ruhga Westerhaus
Kay C. Whittaker
Cobb Young

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William L. Allinder
Katherine Arenal
James L. Baker
Frank P. Barker, III
Robert M. Barnes
Norman E. Beal
Elliot & Marcia Berkley
Jonathan Avram Bortnick
Mark Brennan
Mario Brooks
Pieter A. Brower
Daniel R. Brown
Lee B. Brumitt
Mischa D. Buford Epps
Jack L. Campbell
Christi L. Campos
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Mary Virginia Clarke
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Cathleen A. Connealy

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Elizabeth A. Delagardelle
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Albert P. Mauro, Jr.
Penny & Paul McDermott
Tammee E. McVey
Dale W. Meyer
Richard F. Modin

UP TO \$200
Latricia Scott Adams
Richard F. Adams
Cynthia Aitken

"Justice to me means
that everyone is given the
opportunity to be heard in
court and treated fairly."

Judge Justice Del Muro
Circuit Court of Jackson County

Jay Michael Nadiman
Denise Oas
I.I. Ozar
Donna M. (Wilson) Peters
James Pfanz
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B. John Readey, III
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Richard D. Woods
Hon. Scott O. Wright
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2004/2007 JUSTICE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN

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Michael J. Thompson
 In Memory of Athée Bargert by
 Laurie and Richard Van Auken
 In Memory of Cathy Connealy by
 Daniel J. Devine and Michele Chollet
 In Memory of Frances Griffin by
 Legal Aid of Western Missouri
 In Memory of Harry Johnson by
 Artie L. Johnson
 In Memory of Janet Kaiser by
 Constance B. Powell
 In Memory of Honorable Julian Leavitt by
 Don W. Kennedy
 In Memory of Patrick O'Brien by
 Aldridge & Hall
 Edward F. Ayward
 Gerald Becker
 El Dorado Incorporated
 John & Anna Franke
 Suzanne Gladney & Alan Lubert
 Jack R. Grate
 Richard Halliburton
 Patricia J. Keenan
 Robert and Shirley Legg
 Little Blue Valley Sewer District
 Rebecca S. Magruder
 Richard S. Magruder
 Lynn Manos Page
 Janeal R. Matheson
 Monica Huber McLaughlin
 Roberta North & Daniel Cosgrove
 Robert P. O'Brien
 Gus and Harriet Oxler
 Fred Rich
 Eric Tanner

IN HONOR GIFTS GIVEN IN 2007

Michael J. Bowman
 Barbara A. Braznell
 Travis T. & Armand Breard
 Kirsten A. Byrd
 Tama Byrnes
 Terrance Byrnes
 Barbara Cantril
 Donna J. Carlson
 James & Elizabeth Carlyle
 Nancy Chapman
 Michele Circle
 Carol Cleaver
 Sarah Z. Collier
 Kevin M. Connor
 Lajuana & Stanley Counts
 Sharon Courter
 Darlene H. Cowherd
 Robert E. Cowherd
 Crystal Crowder
 Douglas Y. Curran
 Clararice Dandridge
 Joshua L. Davenport
 Heywood H. Davis
 Effie F. Day
 B. Janeen DeVries
 Lutritia R. Doran
 Duana Draus
 Jerald S. Enstein
 Michelle Fisher
 Tracy McFerrin Foster
 Connie M. Francis
 John & Anna Franke
 Linda J. French
 Kimberly K. Gibbens
 Alicia K. Goforth
 Shirley Goza
 Eric Gray
 Lorraine M. Green
 Rebecca D. Hadjian
 Bob Hamilton
 Amber Henry
 Larrie C. Hindman
 Arthur Aaron Hogg
 Marilyn R. Horn
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Todd D. Barr
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 Laura D. Battie
 Betsy Blake
 W. C. Blanton
 David L. Bolander
 Janis R. Boman
 Judy Bordeau

Terry D. Anderson
 Ella Ruth Aufanc
 Edward F. Ayward
 Elizabeth D. Badger
 Brian Paul Banks
 Wanda J. Banks

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Jeanne Marie Janchar	Craig O'Dear
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Juan J. Martinez	Tonia L. Titus
Donald L. Mason	Donald H. Tranin
Janeal R. Matheson	Laurie & Richard Van Auken
Pamela May	Matthew Verschelden
Susan P. McAlister	Robert J. Virden
Stuart & Amy McAninch	David L. White
Monica Huber McLaughlin	Theodore Wilch
Duncan McQueen	Brandy P. Willey
James J. Melching	Tanya Wilson
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John J. Miller	Jane E. Worley
Nicole S. Miller	Michael L. Yates
Mary E. Murphy	

Legal Aid of Western Missouri is a 501 (c) (3) organization and thus is eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.



FRONT ROW, L-R: Dennis Palmer, Jeff Burnes, Pat McLarney and Richard Halliburton back row,
L-R: Steve Dees, Willie Epps, John Kurtz, Jerry Wolf, Dr. Charles Wheeler, Gordon Gee and
Bill Farrar.

C. Patrick McLarney
Timothy D. O'Leary
Dennis Palmer
Robert J. Payne
Andrew See
Senator Charles Wheeler
Judith Whittaker

The following individuals served
on the JFA Campaign Committee
in 2007:

Toni Blackwood
Jim Frickleton
John R. Phillips
Ronald J. Stites
Robert B. Terry

JUSTICE FOR ALL PRESIDENT'S AWARD

"Justice is treating **All** people fairly."

Gordon Gee, Co-Chair
JFA Campaign
Leadership Committee.

In the fall of 2007, Jack Bangert, Board of Trustees President, initiated the Justice for All President's Award to honor individuals who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to justice for all and to LAWMO. The 2007 recipients of the award were Steve Dees, Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.; Jerry Wolf, Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP; and Pat McLarney, Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.

Steve Dees has served on the Justice for All Campaign Leadership Committee as a past chair and active member for more than 10 years. Steve realized the need for greater commitment from the private bar in supporting free legal services and was instrumental in establishing a new structure for the campaign which now successfully solicits three-year pledges and encourages firms to give at a rate of \$225 per attorney. This proactive plan resulted in a more than \$2,700,000 in donations to the Justice for All Campaign in the years since. This show of support from the legal community, individuals and corporations has directly enabled LAWMO to provide legal assistance to thousands of low-income families and individuals.

Jerry Wolf has served on the Justice for All Campaign Leadership Committee for more than 9 years. He was responsible for scheduling his partner, author Scott Turow, as the keynote speaker for the annual Justice for All Luncheon in 1999. Jerry has served as co-chair of the Justice for All Campaign Leadership Committee for the past four years. Under his leadership, the committee surpassed the \$1.5 million goal set for the 2004–2007 campaign. His passionate leadership is still evident as he heads up solicitations to large firms and corporations in the current campaign. Jerry states, "I believe that justice for all can ensure the integrity of our legal system by making sure the poor have the same legal representation as those that can afford it."

Nearly a decade has past since **Pat McLarney** first joined the Justice for All Campaign Leadership Committee and he continues to be a vital leader in the new three-year \$1.75 million campaign. Pat would like to see Kansas City law firms "acclimated to giving regularly" to support legal services for the low-income population, which he feels is "part of our responsibility as officers of the court." Under his leadership, annual charitable gifts from private lawyers, law firms and insurance corporations have grown over 500%. In addition to his campaign leadership duties, Pat lobbies the state legislature to maintain funding for legal services. He serves on the Missouri Bar Task Force on Legal Services and was instrumental in obtaining a filing fee surcharge that continues to generate substantial revenues to support Missouri legal services programs.



Pat McLarney, Jerry Wolf and Steve Dees

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT AWARD

The Robert C. Welch Volunteer Attorney Project Award is presented to individual attorneys and law firms who, through their participation in the Volunteer Attorney Project (VAP), have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the delivery of pro bono legal services in our community. The 2007 award recipients were Scott Haines, Dan Hall and the law firm of Hubbard & Kurtz LLP.

Scott Haines, a Senior Associate with Martin, Pringle, Oliver, Wallace & Bauer, is a long time member of VAP and has provided outstanding services to his pro bono clients over the years. In 2006, Scott concluded one of his more challenging VAP cases. After more than 60 hours, Scott successfully completed his representation of a client involved in a home improvement contract dispute. As the result of extensive discovery and aggressive litigation by Scott, the court not only removed an unjust Mechanic's Lien from his client's home, but also awarded the client a money judgment.

Dan Hall of the Aldridge and Hall law firm is another veteran VAP member who accepts case referrals on a regular basis. In 2006 Dan provided legal services to 33 VAP clients, donating several hundred hours of legal assistance. In addition, he offers his assistance to VAP in other ways: Dan, who specializes in bankruptcy law, provides ongoing mentoring services to legal services staff and less experienced volunteers. Dan is also a member of the program's continuing legal education training panel;

Hubbard & Kurtz LLP received the award for their exceptional dedication to providing pro bono services. Bill Hubbard and John Kurtz, the partners of the firm, have been steadfast providers of pro bono services and in the most extraordinary ways. After discovering VAP had a long waiting list of grandparents needing legal assistance to address the medical and education needs of the children in their care, the firm accepted more than half the clients on that list. By the end of 2006, Bill concluded representation of his 13 clients, which ultimately benefited the lives of 23 children. John stepped in when it seemed no one would help a Katrina victim facing a disabling hardship and when an adoptive family was unsuccessful in maneuvering through the system to secure adequate housing. John gladly assisted these clients and favorably resolved their legal problems.



"Justice is helping people who aren't aware that they can get help. People without money can have an attorney because Justice is for All!"

Wanda Banks
LAW-AID Central Office

THE HONORABLE H. MICHAEL COBURN AWARD

"Justice means having a fair opportunity to present the facts and law of your case, with a competent advocate to assist you in doing so, before an adjudicator that will rule the case without any consideration other than the facts and the law presented."

Bill Skull
LAWMO Warrensburg

The Honorable H. Michael Coburn Community Service Award was created by LAWMO to celebrate the life and work of the late Judge Coburn, who was passionately committed to serving the public and addressing the challenges of urban areas. The annual award honors one local attorney who exemplifies public service in the spirit of Judge Coburn.

Kansas City attorney Matthew O'Connor was chosen to receive the 2007 Coburn Award. His passion for humanity is evident through his work with Neighbors 4 Neighbors, the charitable organization he founded in 2005 to assist the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. His effort proved how a simple change

in one's perspective and actions can have a major positive impact and bring about monumental changes in the lives of others. Two years later, Matt continues to make a difference in the lives of others through the Neighbors 4 Neighbors organization.

LAWMO honored Matt at the Justice for All Kick-off reception on October 22, 2007, where Federal District Court Judge Nanette K. Laughrey presented Matt with the Coburn Award. Lathrop & Gage donated the award.

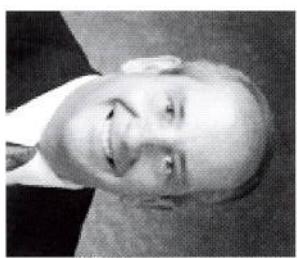
Past Coburn award recipients include Richard W. Miller, Lisa N. Gentleman, Judge Jon R. Gray, Judge Justine Del Muro, C. Patrick McLarney, John



THE MISSOURI BAR PRO BONO PUBLICO AWARD

Bryan Cave LLP received the prestigious award for its outstanding pro bono contribution to LAWMO's Volunteer Attorney Project (VAP). Bryan Cave LLP joined the Volunteer Attorney Project (VAP) in 2006 and the firm's interest in providing pro bono services for community enrichment led to the creation of a new project, The Abandoned Housing Act Project. The project's focus is on

providing legal representation to inner city neighborhood associations by filing lawsuits under the Abandoned Housing Act and/or by filing private nuisance actions in an effort to eliminate abandoned and blighted properties in the city's neighborhoods. The significant contributions made by Bryan Cave's attorneys enhanced the lives and living conditions of many residents and will continue to do so.



W. Perry Brandt, Bryan Cave LLP, Abandoned Housing Act Project co-director.

LAWMO SERVICE AREA

OFFICE LOCATIONS

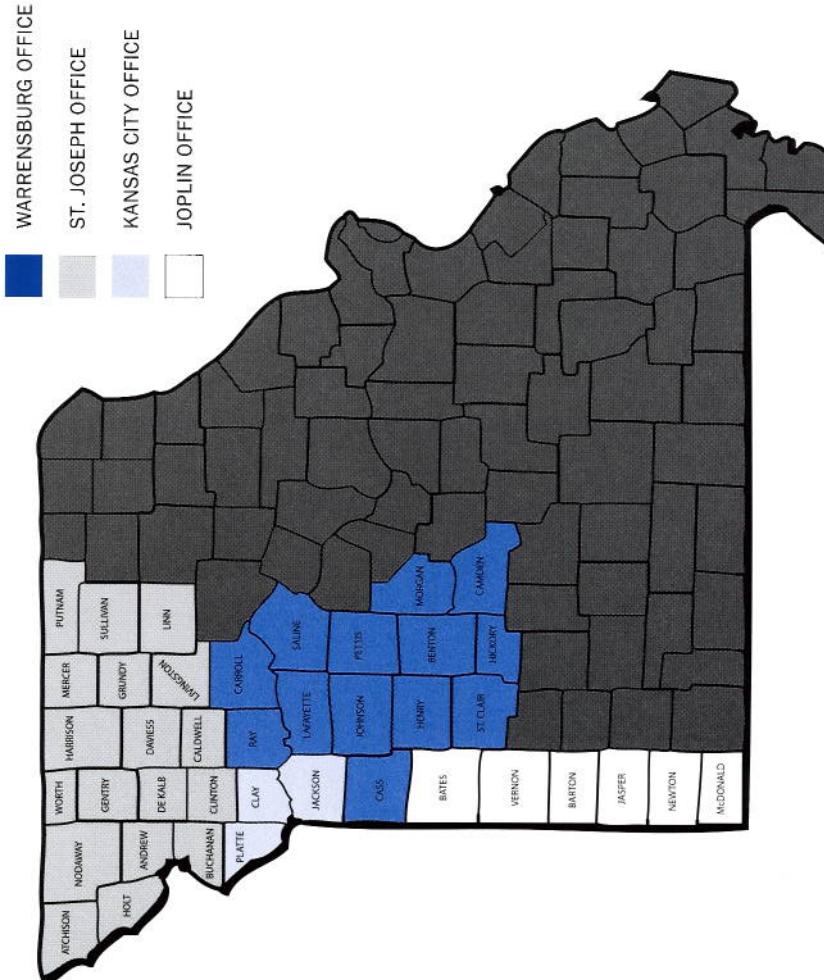
Central Office
1125 Grand Boulevard, Suite 1900
Kansas City, MO 64106
816-474-6750

West Office
920 Southwest Boulevard
Kansas City, MO 64108
816-474-9868

St. Joseph
106 South 7th Street, 4th Floor
St. Joseph, MO 64502
816-364-2325/800-892-2101

Joplin
302 South Joplin
Joplin, MO 64801
417-782-1650/800-492-7095

Warrensburg
305 North Holden
PO Box 396
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660-747-7101/800-892-2943



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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

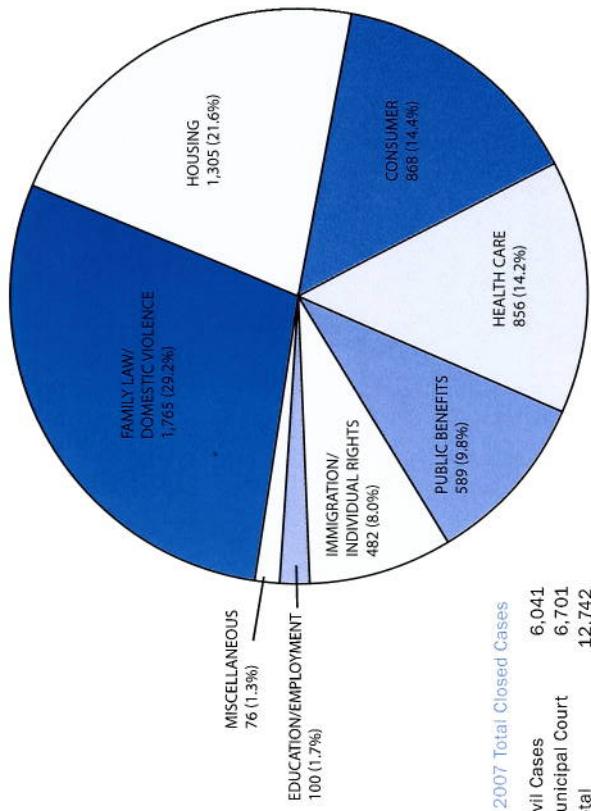
	REVENUE
Federal	
Legal Services Corporation - General.....	1,712,138
Legal Services Corporation - Migrant.....	78,544
U.S. Department of HUD - Housing Counseling.....	127,464
City of Kansas City - Neighborhood Attorney (CDBG Funding).....	109,941
Missouri Department of Social Services - MC + Ombudsman	100,000
Missouri Department of Public Safety - Violence Against Women Act	86,594
Mid-America Regional Council - Area Agency on Aging	45,000
Missouri Department of Public Safety - Victims of Crime Act	34,088
Internal Revenue Service Low Income Taxpayer Clinic.....	20,000
United Services Community Action Agency	16,781
Northwest Missouri Area Agency on Aging	15,060
Care Connection for Aging Services - Area Agency on Aging	5,000
City of St. Joseph - Emergency Shelter Grant.....	4,840
VantAge Point Area Agency on Aging.....	3,040
Sub-total	\$2,358,490
State	
Missouri Supreme Court - State Court Filing Fee.....	975,922
Missouri Department of Public Safety - State Services to Victims Fund.....	41,043
Sub-total	\$1,016,965
County	
Jackson County Community Mental Health Fund.....	63,000
Jackson County Housing Resource Commission.....	41,335
Sub-total	\$104,335
City	
City of Kansas City - Municipal Court Defense.....	746,852
City of Kansas City - Civil Legal Assistance.....	93,471
City of Kansas City - ZEAL Project.....	88,578
Sub-total	\$928,901
United Ways	
United Way of Greater Kansas City (includes donor designations)	327,731
United Way of Greater St. Joseph	74,175
United Way of Southwest Missouri	20,225
United Way of Johnson County	1,900
Sub-total	\$424,031
Other Public Funding	
I.O.L.T.A. (Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts).....	394,373
Foundations, Churches and Other Organizations	
Truman Medical Center, Inc. - Medicaid Appeals Project.....	526,147
Paul Shumaker Fund.....	85,000
Swope Community Builders.....	60,337
Health Care Fin of Greater Kansas City - Children's Mercy Hospital	48,564
Health Care Fin of Greater Kansas City - Migrant Advocate	46,625
Kauffman Fund For Greater Kansas City.....	28,514
The George H. Nettleton Home, Inc.....	15,000
The Women's Foundation of Greater Kansas City.....	12,500
Westside Housing Organization	11,391
Posada del Sol, Inc.....	9,550
Jewish Heritage Foundation of Greater Kansas City	7,000
Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance	3,165
United Church of Christ - Justice and Witness Ministries	2,500
United Methodist Mexican American Ministries	2,400
Visitation Catholic Church - Social Concerns Ministry	1,000
Inter-Faith Community Services, Inc.....	900
Catholic Diocese of Jefferson City	750
Sub-total	\$861,343
Other	
Fundraising (individuals, corporations, foundations) (Fundraising does not include United Way donor designations)	453,697
Mission Bar	170,617
Interest Income	112,826
Miscellaneous	65,449
Sub-total	\$802,589
TOTAL REVENUE	\$6,891,027

2007 CASE STATISTICS

EXPENSES

Personnel Expenses	
Salary - Clerical	\$ 376,656
Salary - Attorney	2,380,217
Salary - Paralegal	831,772
Salary - Administration	532,130
FICA Tax Expense	301,762
Health Insurance	550,590
Disability Insurance	40,654
Workers Compensation	15,280
Unemployment Insurance	8,443
Retirement Contribution	323,441
Retirement Plan Administration	10,187
Sub-total	\$ 5,371,132
Non-Personnel Costs	
Audit	25,000
Data Processing	10,602
Travel	46,106
Rent	344,295
Utilities	4,568
Janitorial	2,520
Office Supplies	62,128
Printing	38,831
Postage	38,989
Equipment Purchase and Lease	56,078
Equipment Maintenance	35,615
Law Library	83,410
Equipment Rental	18,197
Malpractice Insurance	17,109
Liability Insurance	8,822
Telephone and Communication	71,548
Dues and Fees	21,917
Training	44,329
Litigation	9,343
Miscellaneous	127,103
Contract Services to Program	47,209
Contract Services to Clients	44,964
Sub-total	\$1,158,683
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,529,815

CIVIL CASES BY CATEGORY



Case statistics do not and cannot reflect the full scope of LAWMO's reach into the lives of the poor in Missouri. While it is important to report that LAWMO closed 12,742 cases, it is more reflective of our success to talk about the 20,685 persons immediately affected by the outcomes of those cases. For example, cases involve families who are able to stay housed and off the streets and scores of children made safe when violent and dangerous family members are removed from their households. Families living at the poverty level are put at risk when they must choose between buying food and paying exorbitant lending fees to finance a vehicle to get to work. It is with these families in mind that LAWMO prioritizes among the thousands of cases that come to us each year to have the greatest impact possible on those who live in poverty.

"Justice is providing a voice to those
who would otherwise not be heard."

Michelle Albano
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LSC